

MSGNO 27 (STXX) *28/07/83* *00:21*
ZCZC 05:19:35Z (ST)

CO-VE BORDER

25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATE

83 1764442 SCR

NC 1764442

TOR: 280206Z JUL 83

RR RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS3610
RR RUEHC
DE RUEHCV #6406 2081950
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 271949Z JUL 83
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6607
INFO RUEBGB/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6776
RUESSD/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 1743
RUESON/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 2053
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8134
RUEOEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
BT

EZ1:

<> ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ <><>CARACAS<><> 06406

EZ2:

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PBTS, PREL, CO, VE

SUBJECT: GULF OF VENEZUELA BOUNDARY DISPUTE

REF: (A) BOGOTA 7654; (B) CARACAS 5943; (C) CARACAS 5858

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON BOGOTA'S INTERESTING CABLE (REF. A):

- (A) THE STATEMENTS OF LEMOS SIMMONDS RECEIVED MODERATE COVERAGE HERE (REF. B), AS HAS FOREIGN MINISTER ZAMBRANO'S LOW-KEY RESPONSE. BUT SINCE THE MEETING OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS AT THE BORDER, THE ISSUE HAS DROPPED FROM PUBLIC VIEW.
- (B) THE TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN AVOIDING BORDER ISSUES IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AS THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO AVOID TAKING DETAILED POSITIONS ON OTHER CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES.
- (C) ANY PROJECTION OF WHAT A CALDERA OR A LUSINCHI ADMINISTRATION MIGHT DO STRIKES US AS SPECULATIVE AT

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THIS POINT. THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION WILL BE BURDENED BY SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND THUS BE UNABLE TO DEVOTE RESOURCES TO NEW AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL WANT TO EXPEND SCARCE POLITICAL CAPITAL ON THE CONTROVERSIAL BORDER ISSUE.

3. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH CONGRESSMAN JOSE CURIEL, CALDERA'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER. CURIEL (WHO SAYS HE HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH DURING THE PREVIOUS CALDERA ADMINISTRATION) WAS SKEPTICAL OF A SUGGESTED LINK BETWEEN SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER ISSUE AND A POSSIBLE BINATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME. WHILE CALDERA REMAINS INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH, THIS TOPIC WILL NOT RECEIVE MUCH EMPHASIS IN CALDERA'S PROGRAM AND WILL NOT BE A THEME IN HIS CAMPAIGN. LANDAU

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